8/6/71

Dear Harold and Sylvia,

Belin's latest sanctimonious letter to me has imposed such strict conditions on our correspondence that it is not possible for me now to send you copies of his letters. As I interpret the conditions he put forth (which, of course, I cannot reveal to you), here is what I can do with his correspondence:

1. The carbon of my first letter to him and his reponse, both of which you have, is yours to keep since both were exchanged at a time when he did not make it known he wanted any limitations on circulation, and both were made available to you before I could know he would impose any limitations.

2. The carbon of my second letter to him, that of July 12, also fits in this category. He cannot expect me to undo what I have done before knowing that he would wish any confidentiality.

3. Now that he has imposed conditions, I can send you no more copies of the letters he sends me until he says so.

4. He cannot prevent me from sending you copies of my letters to him. That is what I will have to do from now on, for as long as our exchange lasts.

In light of this, I must demand that my correspondence with him be kept in absolute confidence by the both of you, with mention to no one and most certainly, no showing to anyone. I am sorry, but this is the way it must be. I don't want to take chances with this man who might pull anything and who, I believe, is very sick.

If either of you feel I have put too much of a burden on you by asking such secrecy, then I would not be offended if you merely returned what I have sent and "forgot" about the whole thing. I did not wish it to be this way.

Harold--sorry I didn't make reference to your work as you suggested to "bait" him into attacking you, but with so much gasoline on everything, I didn't think it wise to light a match--if you know what I mean.

Best,

Howard